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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 369th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 17 June 1992, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

- General exchange of views (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS (continued)

Mr. TOFALVI (Hungary): As I reported at the twenty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in February 1992, there have been significant changes in Hungary's space activities, not only in their organization but in the conception of the scientific work.

Allow me to summarize very briefly the main Hungarian activities in years past. We took part in the exploration of Halley's comet, the exploration of the magnetosphere and in the Phobos mission, all in cooperation with INTERCOSMOS. We worked on new applications in meteorology and remote sensing for agriculture, forestry, environmental protection and so forth. We engaged in new research in life sciences, developed new on-board and ground equipment and established new cooperative contacts.

Now let me mention some important new items among Hungarian space activities, under the following categories: our main research and application directions; the order of our priorities; international cooperation; and other matters.

The Hungarian Space Board has discussed main and subsidiary directions for Hungarian space activities, and has made decisions concerning Hungary's approach to space, which will determine the way in which Hungary carries out its space activities in the future. The Hungarian Space Board has laid down those main and subsidiary directions for the research and applications on which we intend to concentrate our capabilities and potentials. They are as follows:

(Mr. Tofalvi, Hungary)

Under the main direction of space physics, subsidiary directions relate to the solar system, astronomy, interplanetary space and so on.

Under the main direction of the space-Earth system, subsidiary directions relate to remote sensing, meteorology, global change and so forth.

Under the main direction of space life sciences, subsidiary directions relate to human biology and non-human biology.

Under the main direction of satellite techniques and technology, subsidiary directions relate to telecommunication, broadcasting, mobile services, and so on.

Under the main direction of space technology, subsidary directions relate to on-board equipment, ground equipment, microgravity technology and so on.

Among those five main directions, the following order of priority has been decided upon by the Board for the next two years: the first is the space-Earth system, within which remote sensing will be emphasized; the second is space physics, with an emphasis on participation in various international missions; and the third is satellite techniques and technologies, with which we shall emphasize space broadcasting and space telecommunication. In our view, Hungarian expert knowledge and available means provide opportunities to meet international requirements in those fields.

In connection with international cooperation, Hungary would like to carry out all its space activities within the framework of international cooperation and to increase its international collaboration with all European and overseas countries.

(Mr. Tofalvi, Hungary)

On other matters, it is with great pleasure that I report that it will be possible for us this year to take a big step forward in the development of the Hungarian Remote Sensing Centre at Budapest, with the agreed help of the European Space Agency (ESA). A new system for financing space activities has been started in the context of a State tender, through which research and applications institutions can apply for financial aid.

Let me report on some additional information. On 30 and 31 January 1992, a conference of Hexagonale countries was organized at Budapest on the theme "On international cooperation between Middle European countries". The discussions will continue in the second part of the year, at the end of summer or in early autumn.

In April 1992 we held negotiations at the Russian Space Agency in Moscow. In the near future we anticipate a plan for Russian space research; it will then be examined to decide the themes on which our cooperation - which has been successful thus far - can continue.

(Mr. Tofalvi, Hungary)

As I notified the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its February-March session, we are also celebrating ISY 92 in Hungary. Now I can give the exact date: we shall organize HUNISY 92 on 20 October 1992 in Budapest. It will be a full day's scientific conference and exhibition, with the title "The Use of Space for the Benefit of People".

I should like to express our sincere hope that we shall be able to meet every requirement in all aspects of successful international cooperation and collaboration.

Mr. HENRIQUES (Portugal): On behalf of my country, Sir, I wish to congratulate you on the important role you have played since your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee.

On the occasion of the recent conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, and in the wake of increased global awareness of the vulnerability of our ecosystems, the time has come for this Committee formally to address the issue of space environment and its implications for the Earth's environment. Portugal has already contributed towards this goal by signing the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity.

During recent years Portugal has attached the utmost importance to the issues of the peaceful uses of outer space, and in particular to the promotion of international cooperation related to the exploration of remotely sensed satellite imagery for natural resources assessment and land-use managment, oriented towards the needs of developing countries, specifically those of the Portuguese-speaking African nations.

Indeed, Earth observation satellite imagery can undoubtedly play a major role in the analysis and formulation of sustainable development alternative

(Mr. Henriques, Portugal)

strategies. However, as far as the exploitation of remotely sensed satellite data is concerned, there is still a need to pursue the development of operational methodologies and procedures in order to allow their systematic use within the current activities of environmental assessment and natural resources management.

Following the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, Portugal has since that conference engaged in the development of activities aimed at the operational use of satellite data, namely, in the fields of land cover and natural vegetation satellite-derived cartography, agricultural statistics and forest inventories, study of sea-upwelling phenomena and sea-water pollution characterization, as well as topographic satellite-derived cartography and geological applications - linear accidents detection and mineral resources studies.

At present, Portugal has to offer a set of programmes for education and training in those areas, programmes that are already taking place involving trainees from Lusophone Africa. These cooperation activities are intended to be extended throughout the current and the following years, particularly through cooperation projects applied to specific regions of developing countries aimed at the operational use of satellite imagery.

Finally, two other recent initiatives should be highlighted: the Government decision to study Portuguese integration in the European Space Agency (ESA) and the study of the launching of a Portuguese satellite (P-SAT1), by the Ministry of Industry, to be positioned in a polar orbit.

Mr. DANIELSSON (Sweden): Our knowledge of the Earth as a global system comprising land, oceans and atmosphere, linked together by hydrological and biochemical processes and energy exchange, must increase. The intetrnational initiative to name 1992 the International Space Year (ISY), with the theme "Mission to Planet Earth", is therefore very timely. Sweden fully suupports the overall aim of the ISY to demonstrate and arouse interest in the possibilities offered by space technology for global and regional monitoring of the environment. ISY also offers an opportunity to gather researchers and scientists from industrialized and developing countries in an international, interdisciplinary cooperation, focused on vital environmental questions. It is in our view important that this cooperation continue after the ISY has come to an end.

It is the hope and wish of my delegation that the activities carried out during the International Space Year can be seen as a contribution to the implementation of the aims and goals of the recently concluded United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, especially as regards monitoring of the global environment.

Sweden is actively supporting the International Space Year, inter alia, through our membership in the Space Agency Forum for the International Space Year (SAFISY). More specifically, we have contributed to the SAFISY project "World Forest Watch", with a series of eight projects, all gathered under the theme "Remote Sensing for Forest Management" The results of these projects are now being reported in various national and international forums. Highlights of the report are available in this room.

In this context, I should particularly like to mention the Second United Nations International Training Course in Remote Sensing Education for

(Mr. Danielsson, Sweden)

Educators, organized in cooperation with my Government and co-sponsored by the Swedish Agency for International Technical and Economic Cooperation. The training course, which successfully concluded last Friday, gathered 27 participants from three continents.

The use of nuclear power sources in outer space has been under consideration by this Committee and its two Subcommittees for more than 12 years. It is our hope that the Draft Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space developed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee will be agreed upon and adopted at this session of the Committee.

The agreement in the two Subcommittees was reached after long and arduous negotiations in which concessions were made on all sides in order to arrive at a compromise text. Reopening the discussion on these Draft Principles at this time would, in our opinion, be highly unfortunate and might result in a considerable delay of their adoption. For this reason, my delegation will not make any detailed comments on the content of the Draft Principles, but just state that we endorse the text in its present form.

We will, however, make one general observation on Draft Principle 12. The present, modified form of this Principle makes it possible for the Committee to review and, if deemed advisable, to revise the Principles within a few years after their adoption. In our opinion, it is desirable that such an option be available when developments in space technology and in the radiation protection field necessitate a modification of the Principles.

Sweden continues to believe that there is a need for a better scientific and technical understanding of the problem of space debris, not only among major spacefaring nations but in the international community as a whole.

(Mr. Danielsson, Sweden)

This is why we favour inclusion of this item on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. It is our hope that we shall soon be able to arrive at a consensus on this issue.

(Mr. Danielsson, Sweden)

In this context my delegation would especially refer and subscribe to the statements that were made yesterday by the representatives of Canada and the Netherlands.

Finally, my delegation notes with satisfaction the progress that is under way in streamlining the working methods of the Committee and its Subcommittees. Sweden supports the measures adopted by the Legal Subcommittee, inter alia, to reduce the meeting time of that Subcommittee by one week. We are prepared to cooperate with others in trying to find additional ways to make better use of the services provided to the Committee and its Subcommittees.

Mr. ZAMAN (Pakistan): Once again, it is the privilege of the Pakistan delegation to join other speakers in expressing pleasure and satisfaction at seeing you, Mr. Chairman, presiding over the thirty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are convinced that under your dynamic and able leadership the Committee will well acquit itself by fulfilling its responsibilities for the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. My delegation would like to express its deep appreciation for the work being carried out by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee under the chairmanship of Mr. John H. Carver of Australia and by the Legal Subcommittee under the chairmanship of Mr. Vaclav Mikulka of Czechoslovakia. We look forward to substantial progress during the current session of the Committee and hope that the outstanding issues on its agenda will be amicably resolved.

I shall not go into the details of the developments that have occurred in space science and technology the world over since the Committee's last session, since you, Mr. Chairman, have already elaborated on them. At this

(Mr. Zaman, Pakistan)

point, I should like briefly to review the work done by the two Subcommittees during their 1992 sessions. As all of us are aware, the main scope of UNISPACE 82 was the enhancement of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of all countries, particularly the developing countries. The United Nations Space Applications Programme has since made wholehearted attempts at reorientation in accordance with the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 and has successfully managed to provide - especially to the developing countries - its know-how in space technology applications, in general, and remote-sensing applications, in particular, through the organization of training programmes, workshops and seminars. In this regard the strenuous efforts made by the United Nations Expert on Space Applications are certainly laudable.

The expanded activities of the United Nations Space Applications Programme are funded mainly by contributions made, in cash or in kind, on a voluntary basis. My delegation believes in the spreading of scientific and technological information or know-how through cooperative international activities, including the holding of seminars, symposia, training courses, meetings of experts and so on. We have thus all along been supporting the Programme with cash contributions and, in keeping with the tradition of the past several years, the Government of Pakistan has this year made a cash contribution of $15,000 for the programme year 1992.

As per the decision taken by Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its 1991 session, the Working Group of the Whole made a comprehensive assessment of the status of the implementation of the UNISPACE 82 recommendations and issued a good report.

We all share the concern over the budgetary amount of only $345,900 allocated to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the biennium 1992-1993,

(Mr. Zaman, Pakistan)

which means that the paltry amount of some $172,000 per annum has been granted out of the huge United Nations budget. This is incredible, and the Working Group of the Whole has rightly made a recommendation to the Committee to request the General Assembly to make an adequate budget allocation for the Programme. In this respect the Committee should also look into measures for strengthening the United Nations Space Applications Programme and other related activities within the United Nations system, keeping particularly in view the needs of the developing countries. At the same time, my delegation would like to urge better coordination of the programmes for space-technology applications being implemented by the various agencies in the United Nations system.

Principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from space were adopted at the forty-first session of the General Assembly in resolution 41/65 as long ago as 1986, and that was one of that body's major achievements. Nevertheless, those Principles will remain devoid of any regulatory strength unless they are backed by legal force. In order not to lose the spirit of the Principles my delegation would urge the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to formulate a recommendation specifically asking the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to undertake discussions on the development of the Principles into some form of international agreement.

My delegation has noted with concern the lack of any progress whatsoever, in both Subcommittees, and especially in the Legal Subcommittee, on the subject of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space. In our view, the Legal Subcommittee should finalize the draft of such principles at its next session. This is necessary because with the passage of time more proposals could be made for revising one principle or the

(Mr. Zaman, Pakistan)

other. My delegation would therefore strongly support the view that the Legal Subcommittee should continue to work on the remaining draft principles on which agreement has yet to be reached. Thereafter, a review of the entire text of the set of draft principles could be carried out, if necessary, in the light of draft principle 12, in order to bring them into conformity with internationally agreed principles on the subject.

With regard to the new item on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, "Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all States, taking into particular account the needs of the developing countries," it is heartening to note that some progress was made at the thirty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee in the discussion of certain practicable ideas and that signs of some substantial progress in the near future are now visible.

Turning now to the priority agenda item before the Committee, namely, "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes", there has been hardly any progress achieved by the Committee on this issue, notwithstanding the widespread concern expressed at past sessions. My delegation would appeal to all members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to extend their valuable cooperation in enabling the Committee to utilize its time more effectively in the debate relating to this agenda item in order to arrive at a reasonable solution acceptable to all concerned. In this regard my delegation takes the position that it is within the competence of the Committee to discuss this matter, especially in view of the fact that military activities in space will seriously damage efforts being made to achieve international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.

(Mr. Zaman, Pakistan)

My delegation would now like to draw attention to paragraph 32 of General Assembly resolution 46/45 of 19 December 1991, which requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

(Mr. Zaman, Pakistan)

My delegation recalls that a similar recommendation was made by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions. However, no progress was made in this respect in the thirty-third or thirty-fourth sessions of the Committee, as the subject did not come up for discussion at those sessions. Since the current session is particularly significant, in that it is being held during the International Space Year, it would be appropriate that some discussion of this item take place.

The Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPRACO) established a special ISY Committee to plan, organize and execute a comprehensive programme at the national level in connection with ISY activities during 1992. Under this programme, a number of articles on the different aspects of space science and technology were published in the national and international press, and a number of talks and panel discussions were held on national radio and television programmes highlighting the purpose of ISY to increase the awareness of the general public and the national scientific community. Some 15 radio programmes have also been recorded for broadcast starting in July 1992.

Incidentally, ISY 1992 coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the launching of the first scientific rocket for upper-atmospheric research in Pakistan, REHBER-1, which fell on 7 June 1992. To commemorate this historic event, the Pakistan Post Office has, at the request of SUPARCO, issued two special commemorative stamps.

Other national and international events being organized by SUPARCO in this connection include a short course on Satellite-Aided Search and Rescue Operations in Pakistan and an Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multilateral

(Mr. Zaman, Pakistan)

Cooperation in Space Technology Applications, in cooperation with the People's Republic of China and Thailand, at Beijing in the first week of December 1992.

Mr. Chairman, re-affirming its whole-hearted support to you for making substantial progress in the work of the current session of our Committee, my delegation would like to make further contributions on the various agenda items when they are taken up for discussion.

Mr. KUKAN (Czechoslovakia): Mr. Chairman, allow me, first of all, to express my delegation's pleasure at seeing you presiding once again over the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The considerable diplomatic skills, competence and great experience you have shown not only as Chairman at last year's session of the Committee but also in many other United Nations forums are guarantees that the current session too will bring successful results.

I should like to express my delegation's appreciation to Mr. Flavio Miragaia Perri for his devoted service as Rapporteur in past years. Similarly, our sincere congratulations go to Mr. Edmundo Fujita on his election as the new Rapporteur of this Committee.

As has been pointed out, this year - International Space Year - is not only the thirty-fifth anniversary of the launching of the first satellite into outer space but also the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the fundamental legal document that regulates outer-space activities. The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, was opened for signature on 27 January 1967 and entered into force the same year, on 10 October.

(Mr. Kukan, Czechoslovakia)

Five years ago, on 2 December 1987, the General Assembly, in its resolution 42/68, adopted without a vote, commemorated the conclusion of the 1967 outer space treaty by emphasizing that the Treaty

> "has played and continues to play a positive role in the implementation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the progressive development of the law of outer space, including the elaboration and adoption of other international instruments governing the outer space activities of States". (resolution 42/68, fifth preambular paragraph)

Let me recall another anniversary: the twentieth anniversary of another legal instrument which is the result of the successful work of this Committee and its Legal Subcommittee. I have in mind the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, opened to signature on 29 March 1972, and which entered into force the same year, on 12 September.

These two legal instruments are important contributions to the progressive development of international law through the United Nations, on which this task was conferred by Article 13 of its Charter.

The written report on the outer-space activities of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic is contained in document A/AC.105/505. It allows me, therefore, to focus only on the latest developments in this sphere.

In the series of small satellites with a mass of about 50 kilograms, the third, MAGION 3, was launched on board its parent satellite, INTERCOSMOS 25, from the cosmodrome Plesetsk on 18 December 1991 and separated from the parent satellite on 28 December 1991, when it started its autonomous activity within the APEX project. The aim of this project is to perform active plasma experiments, with MAGION 3 serving as a diagnostic system to detect the

(Mr. Kukan, Czechoslovakia)

effects of experiments carried out on the parent satellite. MAGION 3's manoeuvring capability also permits it to change its distance from the parent body.

Several remote sensing projects are taking place. Last year, the "Canada-Czechoslovakia Cooperation in Remote Sensing" project, prepared by the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing, the Slovak Commission for the Environment and the Czech Ministries of Agriculture and Education, was approved. It will support the development of specific fields by technology transfer, training and exchange of know-how.

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) organized two training seminars in Czechoslovakia, in cooperation with the Federal Committee for the Environment, on operating remote-sensing information systems.

A decision to undertake the land-cover project in Czechoslovakia was adopted by the European Communities. This project is part of the regional activities to implement the European geo-information system on the environment in Central and Eastern Europe. The goal of the project, to be attained within two years, is to acquire land-cover maps of the country through visual interpretation of high-resolution satellite images.

A pilot project has been started to test the possibility of setting up an advanced agricultural statistical system based on satellite remote-sensing data. The methodology was developed by the European Communities Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy. It will be used to obtain information on crop inventory and possibly on yield and production structure.

Before concluding my statement, I would like to touch briefly on one question that was mentioned by previous speakers.

(Mr. Kukan, Czechoslovakia)

At the sessions of both the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, my delegation expressed the view that this Committee and its two subcommittees should pay more attention to the problems of protecting the space environment and in particular to the problem of space debris.

(Mr. Kukan, Czechoslovakia)

There are several reasons supporting and justifying this proposal. Space debris may and will interfere with space activities. This fact has been known for several years. Space debris has had an increasingly adverse impact on observing conditions for astronomy. In order to facilitate the discussion, my delegation submitted at the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee a working paper (A/AC.105/C.1/L.184), which contains a definition of space debris and the possible format for the discussion relating to space debris. The problem of space debris also has its legal aspects. The work of the International Law Association in this respect, which was mentioned yesterday by its representative Mr. Böckstiegel, could assist our consideration when the Committee decides to start it.

Mr. BRAIBANTI (United States of America): We are meeting in a period in which dramatic changes in the world political scene infuse our work with a sense of optimism. As you correctly noted in your opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, these changes are opening up new possibilities for broadening and deepening cooperation among nations in the peaceful use of outer space. The challenge for this Committee is to take full advantage of these opportunities.

There have been some encouraging signs during 1992, particularly in the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The last session of the Subcommittee addressed a full range of international space activities and was rich in technical presentations on important questions by experts from both developing and industrialized countries. The success of that meeting reinforced our view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has been on the right track in recent years in seeking to strengthen the scientific and technical underpinnings of its work.

(Mr. Braibanti, United States)

At the same time, we need to remain vigilant to ensure that the Committee's discussions do not stray into extraneous areas such as disarmament, where it has no mandate. The disarmament aspect of outer space is not in any sense a promising area for discussion in the Committee. There is no scarcity of multilateral forums where disarmament matters can be and are being discussed. The outer space Committee's mandate is that of the only standing committee of the General Assembly concerned exclusively with international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space. The Committee can best contribute to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes by focusing its efforts on serving as a protagonist for international space cooperation.

Members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space have long agreed that strengthening international cooperation in space implies the need for the Committee and its Subcommittees to improve where necessary the methods and forms of their work. We have yet to see the sort of substantial changes that we believe are required to put the Committee and its Subcommittees on a thoroughly businesslike footing. But we recognize that some real progress has been made, particularly in addressing the perennial problem of the Legal Subcommittee's organization of work. We applaud the action taken by the Subcommittee in agreeing to specific measures that will improve its efficiency.

Mr. Chairman, you correctly pointed out in your opening statement that the issue of space debris is of concern to all nations interested in the exploration and use of outer space. We continue to support vigorously the General Assembly's conclusion that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions with space debris and other aspects of space debris, as well as its call for the continuation of national research on this question. The United States is making a substantial effort and devoting

(Mr. Braibanti, United States)

substantial resources to research on space debris, and the results of our work are being widely disseminated. Space debris could be an appropriate subject for future detailed discussion by the Committee, as some other representatives have suggested.

As all are aware, 1992 is the five-hundredth anniversary of Columbus's voyage to the New World and the thirty-fifth anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, which ushered in the space age with the launching of the first artificial satellites. This year we are celebrating the International Space Year (ISY). Originally proposed by the United States Congress and endorsed by Presidents Reagan and Bush, ISY represents a unique opportunity to publicize several significant international space research and education programmes and to communicate to the general public the importance of space science and technology. The spirit of discovery and cooperation among the world's space scientists, engineers, and administrators was no better illustrated than by the panel of distinguished speakers who addressed the opening session of this Committee. My delegation wishes to thank those experts for their thought-provoking statements. We share their sense of optimism for the future of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. We are pleased to note that one of the main international events related to ISY, the World Space Congress sponsored by the International Astronautical Federation and the Committee on Space Research, will be held in Washington, D.C., in August 1992. I would like to express my delegation's appreciation for the strong support and personal involvement of Hubert Curien, France's Minister of Research and Technology, who has served as the Honourary Chairman of the Space Agency Forum for ISY since its inception.

(Mr. Braibanti, United States)

We would also like to express our satisfaction with the work of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications with regard to the International Space Year. The United States has been working closely with the Secretariat to implement a three-part programme for involvement by the United Nations in ISY. The substantive training and educational opportunities provided through the space applications Programme form a solid foundation for this involvement.

Finally, I wish to call attention to Security Council resolution 757 (1992) of May 30, 1992, which noted that:

> "the claim by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations has not been generally accepted". (S/RES/757, tenth preambular paragraph)

The United States firmly believes that the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia no longer exists. Furthermore, we do not consider Serbia-Montenegro to be the continuation of or sole successor to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Accordingly, the position of the United States is that Serbia-Montenegro is not entitled to assume the seat of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations.

The United States also believes that this issue needs to be resolved first in the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly, and that this body should be guided by their disposition of the issue.

Mr. ENTEZARI (Islamic Republic of Iran): At the outset, I should like to join other representatives in congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer

(Mr. Entezari, Islamic Republic of Iran)

Space. I wish you every success. My delegation is confident that this Committee will be able to make considerable progress under your guidance and diplomatic skills. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Jasentuliyana and Dr. Abiodun and others in the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the excellent work they did during the last year.

(Mr. Entezari, Islamic Republic of Iran)

Allow me to begin my statement with a brief review of current space-related activities in my country. The Islamic Republic of Iran plans to start operation of the Zohreh domestic satellite in 1995. The contract to manufacture and launch two domestic telecommunication satellites is in the final stage of being awarded. This project will enhance the present communications infrastructure of the country, and will enable rural areas to access the national and international telecommunication networks. This satellite system will provide not only traditional services, such as telephony and television broadcasting, but will also drastically reform the banking and health-care systems by promoting the efficient exchange of data and information amongst the various financial and health-care organizations.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the incorporation of a steerable spot-beam antenna on each satellite will make it possible to supplement capacity in areas of heavy communications traffic, and will provide emergency relief services through existing equipment or through mobile, portable receiving units. Moreover, some of the satellites' capacity will be used for other new and additional services, such as mobile tracking units. Meanwhile, research and development activities will be undertaken to develop satellite Earth stations for use in the domestic network.

In an effort to restructure the administrative divisions involved in space activities, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken a number of measures, beginning last year. In this context, by a decree approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly in October 1991, a national remote sensing centre was established under the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone. The Iranian Remote Sensing Centre (IRSC) has undertaken the task of reactivating and

(Mr. Entezari, Islamic Republic of Iran)

upgrading its satellite ground receiving station. This facility, which was procured in 1976, can receive LANDSAT 1, 2, 3, MSS (multispectral scanner) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration AVHRR (advanced very high resolution radiometer) data; now IRSC is going to increase the capability of the receiving station through the direct acquisition of LANDSAT TM, ETM, SPOT and possibly several other earth resources sensing satellites.

IRSC is in the process of procuring a sensor package for conducting airborne remote sensing surveys. This methodology will be complemented by an extensive, computer-based geographical information system.

In order to expand the activities of IRSC, the establishment of a number of remote sensing centres at provincial level is envisaged for 1993. These centres will be linked by a data transmission network to the IRSC main office in Tehran.

Furthermore, in continuation of the restructuring plan, the Islamic Republic of Iran is in the process of establishing a national space technology and applications organization, entitled the Iran Space Administration (ISA). This organization will be chartered to manage, coordinate and conduct activities in several major national endeavours, including telecommunication satellite applications, remote sensing, space-oriented research and television broadcasting. The ISA organization, which is now at the final parliamentary approval stage, is designed to encompass all the aforementioned activities relating to the use of space resources.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is going to hold a regional remote sensing seminar by the end of 1992 in Tehran. The seminar, which will have the title "Remote Sensing of Environment and Earth Resources", is being sponsored by the

(Mr. Entezari, Islamic Republic of Iran)

Iranian Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone and the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations. The main objective of this seminar is to provide participants with the latest technical information and with an evaluation of the latest developments in the application of satellite remote sensing data for development.

In accordance with the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 concerning the development of indigenous capabilities, my country has initiated activities towards preparing for the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education and has examined the extent to which opportunities for this kind of development are available to the developing countries. The elements necessary for such a centre, including the required space, highly qualified technical personnel, an adequate budget and so on, have been thoroughly studied and corresponding steps have already been taken. In this regard, my country is ready to welcome the evaluation mission.

My country attaches great importance to cooperation between the developing and the developed nations at bilateral, regional and international levels because such cooperation can promote mutual understanding and increase the scientific capabilities of all, particularly the developing countries. Along these lines, the implementation of the space applications Programme of the United Nations is of great importance and should be encouraged by the Member States. Here, I am pleased to be able to declare that two major conferences, the Asian conference for Remote Sensing and the Directors' Meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), are scheduled to be held in Tehran in the next year.

(Mr. Entezari, Islamic Republic of Iran)

In my delegation's view, the new political atmosphere in the world, together with the commemoration of International Space Year, have created an unprecedented opportunity for the international community to take constructive and practical steps towards implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. Unfortunately, on the tenth anniversary of UNISPACE 82, we have to acknowledge that the international community has not been able to implement all those recommendations.

Despite the fact that, during the past 10 years, many seminars, symposia and long- and short-term training courses on advanced applications of space science and technology have been held - and I take this opportunity to thank their sponsors - they have not been sufficient to meet the increasing needs of the developing countries. In this context, it must be emphasized that the number of fellowships offered to the developing countries is limited, and that the developed countries and the relevant international organizations have a special responsibility to promote and support such development.

My delegation believes that technology transfers, unrestricted access to satellite data at a suitable price and technical assistance followed by the necessary educational support can also narrow the present gap between the developing and the developed countries. Such assistance would enable the developing nations to carry out their construction programmes efficiently and to cope with various problems effectively.

We are of the opinion that establishing and strengthening regional mechanisms and promoting them through the United Nations system can play a remarkable role in increasing international cooperation.

In conclusion, my delegation once again emphasizes the need for real peaceful uses of outer space and for worldwide cooperation in the field.

Mr. VALENCIA (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish): Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to open my statement by telling you how delighted the delegation of Ecuador is at seeing you once again guiding the work of this Committee. We are certain that your leadership will continue to propel the work of the Committee forward with the efficiency and professionalism that are your hallmark. I also wish to extend our greetings to the Vice-Chairman of our Committee, Ambassador Dragos Munteanu, and to the new Rapporteur we elected recently, our colleague and friend Edmundo Fujita.

The holding of International Space Year has highlighted the international community's interest in furthering international cooperation in space matters with a view to attaining specific objectives of general interest to States.

(Mr. Valencia, Ecuador)

Other speakers have already highlighted the fact that the raison d'être of space science, like that of all other areas of human knowledge, lies in its practical applications and its benefits to mankind. We are all aware that space apllications and the benefits of space activities are resources waiting to be exploited. Yet the fact that space science requires leading-edge technology and major human and financial capital has concentrated that science in a handful of countries. That trend towards a concentration of scientific know-how, which has been noted in other areas of technology as well, could prevent or hamper the use of space resources for the general good. But political considerations, such as those relating to the defence and security of States, constrain the flow of space know-how or, as we have seen, can spur certain countries possessing space technology to question and to attempt to block other countries' development of local space industries.

Only dialogue among States can bring about the understanding necessary for the development of space activities and their application for the common good. Cooperation can be fostered and promoted in three ways: first, among countries with a space potential, in order to avoid duplication of effort and the concomitant waste of know-how and capital - something referred to during last Monday's panel discussion - and to make possible greater advances in space science; secondly, between countries with technical capabilities and those just beginning to develop them, in order to dispel any misunderstanding that could impede the scientific development to which all States have a sovereign right; and thirdly, between States possessing technical capabilities

(Mr. Valencia, Ecuador)

and those either without them or possessing them on a relatively small scale, in order to extend the benefits of space science to all peoples, providing for fair reciprocal economic benefits and, when appropriate, making available the use of underutilized technological facilities free of charge.

To promote cooperation it is necessary to facilitate dialogue among the parties concerned. That is why, in the Latin American sphere, Ecuador supports the organization of a second Space Conference of the Americas, planned for Chile in 1993. We are convinced that, thanks to the contribution made and the interest shown by the Chilean Government and the positive response of the international community, this event will be a success.

Returning to space cooperation at the global level, my delegation wants to stress that this is affected by elements not directly related to space science: concerns bearing particularly on the defence and security of States. So long as we are unable to decide on the appropriate forum for an across-the-board discussion of space matters, many delegations will remain discouraged, and speculation will be fuelled on the real readiness of certain States to abide by the principle of making peaceful use of outer space. It is obvious to Ecuador that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is the perfect negotiating forum for anything to do with the peaceful uses of outer space - without, of course, discounting cooperation to that end with other international-security forums, such as the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission.

Moreover, the outer space Committee must identify priorities for international cooperation and promote arrangements that will implement initiatives of general interest. In that connection, Ecuador highlights the

(Mr. Valencia, Ecuador)

importance of completing the adoption of the catalogue of principles on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. We support the Austrian initiative on a shorter review period for those principles so they may remain current with technological advances and with a view to facilitating the adoption of shorter-term principles. That issue is without doubt linked to the great subject of protecting the environment - specifically the space environment - and reminds us of another need to which reference has been made by several delegations: the problem of space debris, which Ecuador considers must be given substantive consideration in the near future both by this Committee and by its Subcommittees.

My delegation will address other agenda items later in the session.

But I would not want to conclude without stating my delegation's appreciation for the work carried out this year by Mr. Carver and Mr. Mikulka as Chairmen respectively of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee. My delegation wants also to express its great thanks to Mr. Jasentuliyana and Mr. Abiodun, and the other members of the Secretariat, who have made a significant contribution to our work.

Mr. EXARCHOS (Greece): As this is my delegation's first statement at this session, I wish to extend to you, Sir, my sincere congratulations on the outstanding way in which you are carrying out your duties.

Greece has been participating actively in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees. Together with other member States and international and regional organizations, we will continue to work towards strengthening, expanding and promoting international

(Mr. Exarchos, Greece)

cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. It is the hope of my delegation that the enhancement of cooperation between developed and developing countries will provide the basis for increased global cooperation, to the benefit of the international community, and in particular of developing countries.

Given the importance of the International Space Year, and with a view to achieving greater international cooperation in the field of space science and space applications, Greece, in close cooperation with the Chief of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Expert on Space Applications, has undertaken a series of activities, including in particular the organization of a United Nations international seminar on communications for development for the benefit of countries in the Mediterranean and adjacent areas, to be held at Athens from 10 to 21 May 1993.

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee recommended, inter alia, the approval of that seminar in its report on the work of its twenty-ninth session, held in New York from 25 February to 5 March 1992. Accordingly, following the Committee's formal endorsement of the report of that Subcommittee, we intend to intensify consultations with both the Secretariat and INMARSAT with a view to completing the programme for the Athens seminar by the time the report of this Committee is approved during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

Let me assure members that the Greek Government will spare no effort to ensure the success of the seminar, during which participants will also have ample opportunity to be briefed on INMARSAT systems and equipment.

(Mr. Exarchos, Greece)

As part of its contribution to the International Space Year, the Government of Greece organized an interdisciplinary seminar devoted to space applications and international cooperation, which took place on 2 April 1992 at the Eugenides Foundation in Athens, an institution founded for the promotion of modern technology development in Greece through research and education programmes. The seminar included, inter alia, lectures by the Director of the United Nations Information Centre for Greece, Israel and Cyprus; the Minister of Merchant Marine; the Secretary-General of the Hellenic Society of Air and Space Law; and Mr. Moutsoulas, national coordinator for United Nations activities in Greece relating to the International Space Year. Detailed information on that seminar is available in a note by the Secretariat contained in document A/AC.105/445/Add.8 of 2 June 1992.

(Mr. Exarchos, Greece)

The United Nations initiative to establish centres for space science and technology education is indeed a very laudable step for the effective development of Earth observation programmes and environmental management capabilities. Greece recently informed the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Petrovsky, of its willingness to support this United Nations activity and expressed its interest in hosting a centre for space science and technology education. We feel that the effective contribution to the solution of global, regional and national environmental and resource management problems, as well as problems related to earthquake prediction, and search and rescue operations, favour the creation of such a centre in our area. Greece has a unique geographical position which enables it to assume the role and carry out the tasks of the host country in our area.

Mr. SAHADE (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The Argentine delegation is very pleased to be taking part in the Committee's current session, which is being held during International Space Year, whose celebration the Argentine Republic has enthusiastically supported. We are also pleased, Sir, that the Committee's chairmanship is in your very capable hands and that the job of Rapporteur has been entrusted to our friend from Brazil, Mr. Edmundo Fujita. I should also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent job done by Mr. Flavio Perri.

The Argentine Republic has repeatedly stated the principle that outer space must be used for exclusively peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance for us progressively to develop an international juridical order properly regulating space activities. Such an order should promote international cooperation, the development of research and the preservation of the exclusively peaceful nature of the exploration and use of outer space.

(Mr. Sahade, Argentina)

As we have said before, space activities in Argentina are now being carried out in a new context, through an independent civilian body, the National Space Activities Commission (CONAE), which is directly under our President, and whose head has the rank of Secretary of State.

The new Commission replaces the former National Space Research Commission (CNIE), which came under the Argentine Air Force. CONAE, created on 28 May 1991 by national executive decree, which was ratified by Congress, is the only national State body with the competence to implement, design, execute, control and manage space projects and undertakings, and its mission is to use space technology for exclusively peaceful purposes. CONAE consists of a President, Vice-President and board of management of seven members representing the following sectors of national public administration: science and technology; culture and education; communications; foreign relations and worship; defence; the economy; and the environment.

The Commission has given top priority to the production of a satellite, SAC-B, work on which is in full swing. The satellite platform and one of its experiments will be constructed in our country, with the participation of a high-technology enterprise, located in the Rio Negro province, known as INVAP.

The satellite will also carry at least three United States experiments, one from Penn State University and the other two from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Its launching into orbit, for which NASA will be responsible, is expected to take place by the end of 1994. It will have a total weight of about 150 kilograms. Its scientific purpose is the

(Mr. Sahade, Argentina)

high-resolution real-time observation of solar flares in the energy range of high-intensity X-ray radiation, in which the behaviour of gamma radiation eruptions will also be analysed.

Consideration is also being given to a programme based on the SAC-B platform, in its original form or modified, also in cooperation with NASA, of launches of Argentine and United States payloads. To implement this programme, which was initiated at a workshop in Washington in February 1991, we shall begin in August to visit various research groups in our country to explain the potential of the satellite platform SAC-B and to ask them to present payload proposals for scientific research and for practical applications. We hope as a result to increase our space activity over the next few years.

Our intention to convert our launching site in Mendoza into a base meeting international requirements will be implemented as quickly as possible. That will permit us to reach an agreement with a French institution and, we hope, lead to similar agreements with research groups from other countries as well as promoting research in Argentina itself.

As we told the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in February, CONAE's work will be based on the following three fundamental points: first, interaction with various research groups in our country, particularly with the universities; secondly, international cooperation; and, thirdly, regional integration.

There are already framework agreements for cooperation in space matters between Argentina and Brazil and between CONAE and NASA, and such an agreement between CONAE and the DLR of Germany is about to be signed. We expect later

(Mr. Sahade, Argentina)

to have similar agreements between CONAE and INTA, CONAE's equivalent in Spain, and the space agencies of other countries.

CONAE's plans include the establishment of a regional centre for scientific information gathered by satellite, including information on global change. We have other plans which will be implemented as those I have already mentioned reach fruition.

I should like to make it clear that we are not forgetting the problems connected with the reception and distribution of data gathered by remote-sensing satellites. In fact, we are interested in using space technology not only to tackle scientific problems, but also to deal with everything involved in preserving the environment and promoting development.

(Mr. Sahade, Argentina)

The Commission continues to be keenly interested in following up on an offer made by the former National Space Research Commission; in other words, Argentina hopes to become the seat of a future regional United Nations centre for education in space science and technology for the Americas and the Caribbean. Our offer is linked to the underlying philosophy of our Commission, namely, that its activity must not be focused on a concentration and monopolization of efforts but, rather, on promotion and on bringing into play the various existing Centres, whether university-based or not, all of which are performing pertinent tasks.

The point here is to create in decision-making bodies within the Government and in the population as a whole an awareness of the potential of space technology and the rules that will have to be followed in making use of such technology. Later this year our Commission will present an exhibition on the great discoveries of the space age and the benefits that man has derived from it. In this connection we are very grateful for the contributions being made by other space agencies.

We have an extensive work programme that reflects in large measure the positive and intensive job being done by other bodies subsidiary to our National Space Commission. We will expand upon our position in greater detail in due course during this session, but I should like here to highlight some matters that are of special interest.

First, we firmly support the view expressed by many delegations that every effort should be made to complete at this session a draft set of principles governing the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space.

Secondly, the recent Rio de Janeiro Conference set forth in bold relief the international community's concern over environmental issues. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space must not be on the sidelines of

(Mr. Sahade, Argentina)

this irreversible trend. Thus, among the complex issues involved, we must study the question of space debris. In that connection we believe that this question must be taken up during our discussion of the geostationary orbit, which is where the problem of space debris is most acute.

Thirdly, we feel it is important to pursue and develop further the positive trend noted at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee with regard both to the implementation of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States and to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit.

We appreciate the Committee's attention, and we are ready to assist the Committee and all its members in making this session a success.

Mr. PRUNARIU (Romania)(interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, the Romanian delegation is pleased to join other delegations in expressing its satisfaction at participating in the thirty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space under your able guidance. This session is one of a large number of events that will take place this year. The year 1992 is unique in being the anniversary of many important events in the history of mankind: it has been 500 years since the discovery of the American continent; it has been 35 years since the launching of the first artificial Earth satellite; it has been 10 years since the second world Conference on outer space, UNISPACE 82. We are convinced that, thanks to your experience and to the collaboration of the members of the Committee, our work at this session will achieve the true progress all of our countries wish for and expect.

With reference to the period that has elapsed since the Committee's last session, your outstanding statement mentioned the important events in space and the impact of those events on the progress of science and technology. The

(Mr. Prunariu, Romania)

Romanian delegation wishes to add its congratulations to those the Chairman addressed to delegations for the various achievements of their countries in the conquest and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. Indeed, the achievements of States in this area are a source of pleasure for all of us, for they are in the end the achievements of all mankind. It is also a pleasure to note that a growing number of States and specialist groups have recently become involved in the activities being undertaken in this field. Many achievements are being made in the field of new applications of space technology and these are having a great and positive impact on the economies of those countries.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two subsidiary bodies must work out and establish specific forms of cooperation. I refer to the formulation and adoption of a number of important international legal instruments to assure access to space technologies and applications by all countries, without discrimination and on reasonable conditions.

With regard to Romania's space activities, I would briefly mention our decision to extend the range of our activities in this area to practical applications. At the same time, we support the participation of qualified Romanian scientists in international efforts to increase our knowledge of outer space and the physical and chemical processes that occur there, the study of the biosphere and the Earth's crust, the study of human behaviour and of life in general in outer space.

Since the late 1960s Romania has been committed to the research and use of space technologies. For several years it was the only Eastern European country to use the INTELSAT satellite telecommunication system. It is currently using data from meteorological satellites, and it has a large number of pilot projects for remote sensing in agriculture, geology, hydrology,

(Mr. Prunariu, Romania)

ecology, land management and, more recently, for assisting in the privatization of agriculture. Within the framework of collaboration in the field of scientific research in outer space Romania has built magnetometres, mass spectrometres, dosimetres, on-board equipment for scientific satellites and equipment for the study of cosmic radiation and for the creation of crystals in microgravity, as well as equipment for the analysis of biosatellite data and materials. All of this has enabled us to create conditions in which our country will have available to it the human resources it needs to engage in specialized research into nearly the entire gamut of space problems as well as to participate in the many cooperative international actions being undertaken in the area of research and utilization of outer space for peaceful means.

With a view to intensifying and broadening the research and utilization of space technology, as well as to use effectively and to retain within the country trained specialists in the field, we are in the process of establishing the Romanian Space Agency, a governmental body directly subordinate to the Departament of Science. The profound political changes in our country have enabled us to enter into new scientific and economic cooperation in outer space with other foreign specialized agencies. Thus, Romania recently became a member of INTELSAT, INMARSAT and EUTELSAT. The first satellite telecommunications ground station of this European organization has just been made operational. At the same time, we have begun to equip our naval vessels with satellite telecommuncations navigational systems, and some of this equipment has been built by Romanian industry. Our industry also has special expertise in the construction of ground stations for receiving data from weather satellites in polar or geostationary orbit, and some of this equipment is also available for export.

(Mr. Prunariu, Romania)

As emphasized earlier, Romania aims at becoming fully integrated into international space structures. Thus, it has continued to collaborate in the INTERCOSMOS programme, having participated in 1991, together with Czech specialists, in the APEX experiment on board the INTERCOSMOS-25 satellite, with an SGR-7 triaxial magnetometer and a subsatellite SGR-6 variometer. Other types of equipment, again with international cooperation, are being readied: a mass spectrometer for the SAS satellite, calculation equipment for the PRIRODA remote-sensing project, neutron spectrometers for the MARS-94 and MARS-96 projects, among others.

Negotiations are well along towards concluding a cooperation agreement, which we hope to be able to sign this year, with the European Space Agency. An important event worthy of mention in terms of collaboration with ESA and EUTELSAT was the Conference on Communications by Satellite in Central Europe and Eastern Europe (SATELCOM '91), held in Bucharest, and in which more than 500 specialists participated.

In conclusion, our space technology research and applications programmes are designed to satisfy the immediate needs of our economy; they are harmonized with international cooperation programmes which are under way or in the planning stages and to which our research and our industry are capable of making an increasing contribution.

On the specific agenda items before us, the excellent statement you made, Sir, at the beginning of the session showed the importance and the complexity of the problems the Committee is called upon to consider.

The Romanian delegation appreciates the activities being carried out by the Legal Subcommittee's Working Group on the elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space, and feels that it

(Mr. Prunariu, Romania)

is necessary to continue this task at the next session in order to finalize them. My delegation also feels that it is necessary to continue the study of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space at the level of the Legal Subcommittee's Working Group.

With respect to the geostationary orbit, my delegation is of the opinion that all States must have rational and equitable access to this orbit, for it is the resource of our entire planet. My delegation awaits with keen interest the elaboration of a new document on this matter following the discussions that took place in Geneva this year during the Legal Subcommittee's session.

The Romanian delegation is interested in participating constructively in the consideration of the documents presented by various countries on the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all States. It believes that the activities of the Committee must be correlated with the debates on confidence-building measures in outer space, which are taking place at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament.

Briefly, we would recall that like other delegations, we favour solutions that would provide for broad international cooperation that would ensure access by all States to space technology and its applications.

From the reports before us, we have taken note of the various tasks that have been carried out or coordinated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. We join other delegations in commending the difficult work carried out within the framework of the United Nations Space Applications Programme, under the financial constraints well known to everyone. United Nations bodies have made a key contribution to progress in outer-space activities, and I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Adigun Ade Abiodun, the Expert on Space

(Mr. Prunariu, Romania)

Applications, for his efforts in finding solutions to expanding this Programme through voluntary contributions.

The Romanian delegation will be prepared to intervene, as appropriate, and to contribute to success on the substantive agenda items at this session of the Committee. Lastly, allow me to express our thanks to Mr. Jasentuliyana, Chief of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and to the members of the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing the documentation for this session.

Mr. STANKOV (Bulgaria): Over the past few years, the world has witnessed far-reaching changes that have made a strong impact on every aspect of international activity. The new conditions and the growing spirit of cooperation are opening up encouraging prospects for dealing with the global problems facing mankind. This is particularly true of areas where development and progress are beyond the capabilities of individual States, however powerful, and require the joint efforts of the international community.

The Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, whose mission is to promote and coordinate cooperation between States in the exploration of outer space. The importance of the Committee's activities is amply demonstrated in practice. Present-day space exploration is governed by a set of norms and principles developed as a result of this Committee's endeavours and designed to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in this area.

We expect the Committee to continue to play this important role in the future by further intensifying its activities in line with the ongoing changes in the world at large and within the world Organization. In our view, it is necessary for this body to be able to complete its work on certain projects,

(Mr. Stankov, Bulgaria)

which have for years been the focus of its attention. Thus, it will soon be in a position to address other outstanding issues that require urgent consideration.

In this sense, my delegation is hopeful that the results achieved at the sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, combined with the desire for mutual understanding and compromise, will provide the basis for finalizing work on the principles of the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space. In this way, the objective set in General Assembly resolution 46/45 will be achieved.

The usefulness of the United Nations Space Applications Programme in promoting broader cooperation in space science and technology has been clearly demonstrated in practice. We share the view that the Programme should continue in the future to focus on long-term, task-oriented education in space technology, as well as on specific application areas. We believe that the wide-ranging schedule of meetings, training courses, seminars and conferences to be held in 1993 will stimulate the fuller application of space technologies in line with the needs of all countries, and, more importantly, will facilitate the access of developing countries to such technologies.

The Bulgarian delegation believes that international cooperation in the field of remote sensing of the Earth by satellite should be encouraged in view of the need to grant access to the accumulated and processed data in that area to each and every State, in due course and at an affordable price.

(Mr. Stankov, Bulgaria)

The Republic of Bulgaria welcomes with appreciation the declaration of 1992 as International Space Year. We believe that the participation of the United Nations in the events within the framework of the International Space Year, which is funded by voluntary contributions, will have a major effect on the broader distribution of useful information related to the exploration of outer space and its use for the benefit of each and every country in the world. We deem it particularly important and timely for the various events scheduled to be held within the International Space Year to focus on the issue of the use of space science and technology in monitoring and exploring the environment. This fact reflects the broad international concern for the future of this planet's environment as well as the opportunities which the use of space technology in this sphere holds for the international community.

In our opinion, environmental issues and the use of space technologies in addressing them should, as a whole, occupy a prominent place among the priorities of international space cooperation, and more specifically, of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. In this connection, special attention should be given to the issue of protecting the space environment, and notably to the problem of space debris. This issue appears to be the subject of growing attention on the part of a number of States, as became evident during its discussion at the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We consider the invitation contained in the Subcommittee's report in document A/AC.105/513 to continue further the granting of information concerning national space research to be particularly useful.

As a country of limited resources, Bulgaria is very much interested in promoting international cooperation in the exploration of outer space. Regardless of the present economic difficulties encountered by my country, it

(Mr. Stankov, Bulgaria)

is our desire to continue our participation in international space programmes now in progress, while seeking new possibilities for intensifying our cooperation with partners on an international, regional and bilateral level. Here I should like to cite our participation with instruments and equipment in the Intereosmos programmes, notably in the "APEX" and "SVET" projects. The latter was designed for the exploration of the ionosphere by satellite technology with live plasma interaction. The "SVET" space greenhouse on board the Mir orbiting station marked the beginning of long-term space experiments aimed at building closed-cycle life-supporting systems.

On a bilateral level, we are planning to intensify our cooperation with partners in the United States, Germany, Italy, and France. A framework agreement for cooperation with the ESA is also under negotiation. In our view, the fuller utilization of space science in some large-scale programmes along the lines of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization would be quite useful and advisable.

In conclusion, I would like to express the confidence of the Bulgarian delegation that the present session of the Committee will live up to our expectations, and that the results it will achieve will constitute a fresh contribution towards our common cause of the peaceful use of outer space, in the best interest of humankind.

Mr. PEREZ CRUZ (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Cuba welcomes you once again, Sir, at the head of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are certain that, under your experienced leadership, the goals set for this session will be attained.

(Mr. Perez Cruz, Cuba)

It is a great honour for me to address the Committee at its thirty-fifth session. We are speaking here in our observer capacity. For over 10 years, Cuba has been involved in United Nations activities concerned with the peaceful uses of outer space through its participation in this Committee and its Scientific and Technical and Legeal Subcommittees.

Cuba participated in the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in 1982. In March of 1990 a regional United Nations workshop on space communications for development was held in Havana and proved to be a great success. In March of this year, the International Scientific Seminar devoted to the "Results of the study of the Earth by aerocosmic means" was held in Havana as Cuba's contribution to activities in the context of the International Space Year (ISY).

As a reflection of the importance attached by the Government of Cuba to space research and activity, we created the Cuban National Commission for the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space; since the early 1980s it has been coordinating the efforts of over 20 institutions and other bodies throughout our country dealing with the development and application of space research. Cuba is among the very few countries having developed scientific equipment for space research. Of the equipment designed and built, some have already been placed in orbit while others have gone through rigorous testing in preparation for their impending launch.

Cuba is involved in activities and participates in international projects concerned with outer space. In that connection, and aware of the interest also shown by other States, the Government of Cuba would like to reaffirm its desire to become a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, knowing as we do that our presence within this body will contribute to expanding the ties of international cooperation that already exist, with

(Mr. Perez Cruz, Cuba)

a view to a better and more efficient exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

My delegation would like to express its concern at the continuation of programmes for militarizing outer space. For Cuba, the role of the United Nations on the path towards the exclusively peaceful uses of outer space is of great importance.

Our Committee is working at a time when international relations have undergone a dramatic change. While we can rejoice at the fact that humanity's aspirations for living in a world of peace, free from any nuclear holocaust, seem closer to being realized today, we cannot claim that these changes are having a positive impact on most of our countries.

The possibilities afforded by space technology for destructive uses are the most dangerous challenges currently facing humanity. Man's vision of our planet requires a profound understanding, not only of how tiny the planet is in the immensity of the universe, but also of the fact that we have a common destiny as human beings. Thus, it is of the greatest irony that in this day and age, notwithstanding our awareness of the ties that bind us as members of the human race, there are States or groups of States that are considering using space to negate these ties. Considering outer space as just another arena for conflict would be the greatest injustice human beings could inflict on their fellows.

Our delegation supports the idea that the development of international cooperation in outer space research and the peaceful uses of outer space be examined in its broadest political and legal context as a part of the effort to bring about a peaceful outer space. That is precisely why the Committee must become actively involved in the quest for effective ways and means of avoiding an arms race in outer space and must work to establish and strengthen

(Mr. Perez Cruz, Cuba)

the necessary machinery for cooperation between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space of the Conference on Disarmament.

Let us jointly call upon the international community to recognize the necessity that outer space not be militarized. We recognize the major efforts made by the United Nations to achieve effective international cooperation in outer space. However, we must highlight the vast disproportion between great expenditure earmarked for militarizing outer space and the low level of aid to underdeveloped countries when it comes to space cooperation.

(Mr. Perez Cruz, Cuba)

Our delegation would like to place on record the efforts made and the work done by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and by the Expert on Space Applications in organizing and promoting training seminars and providing technical assistance and aid to the neediest countries. Regrettably, however, notwithstanding the generous support given by certain countries which have hosted courses and seminars, financial constraints have made it impossible for the results to be on a par with what was agreed upon back at UNISPACE 82 nor with the efforts already made. In this context, we hail the efforts made by the countries of Latin America in organizing seminars and scientific workshops in the area of space applications. We support measures designed to create and strengthen regional cooperative machinery within the United Nations system. We are certain that the Second Space Conference of the Americas, to be held in Santiago, Chile, in January next year, will help us attain these goals.

Space activities in our country are basically taking place through international cooperation and based on our own development efforts. Our domestic remote sensing work is aimed at developing the aerospace techniques and resources to enable us to study natural resources, compiling geographical information and computerizing it so that it can be used mainly for agriculture, fisheries, geology and so on.

In connection with remote sensing of the Earth, Cuban experts have participated in international projects with member countries of the Intercosmos programme, within our own country, have achieved major results - both in scientific and in practical, applied terms - in the fields of geology, agriculture, the study of the continental shelf, botany, and others. We are of the view that the results achieved by Cuba in this field may prove useful to other developing countries.

(Mr. Perez Cruz, Cuba)

Currently, work is proceeding on a nationwide scientific project in Cuba as part of our participation in the Intercosmos Priroda project. Our country is also cooperating in remote sensing with other institutions across Latin America doing research involving the study of the continental shelf and adjacent waters in the Caribbean and the Atlantic, agriculture, natural resource mapping and so on.

In relation to the biological sciences and space medicine in particular, we are of the view that there must be access by all States to the results achieved in the field of medicine so that countries which are not developed also receive the benefits of new medical techniques, equipment and treatments and medicines developed in or for space. In this context, Cuba is striving to put into space medicine practice the results achieved in the CORTEX experiment, which studied the higher nervous functions within healthy individuals subjected to extreme stresses, and is already applying those results to personnel working on Earth.

We agree that it is necessary for there to be an examination of ways to strengthen and promote international cooperation in the sphere of the spin-off benefits of space technology, striving, among other things, to improve access for all countries to those benefits and paying particular attention to those spin-offs which may meet the social and economic needs of the developing countries.

This year we have witnessed the great importance the international community has attached to environmental issues. Proof of this is the recently concluded United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Brazil. The activities to commemorate International Space Year have also touched on aspects of the environment, with the application of technology

(Mr. Perez Cruz, Cuba)

to the study and monitoring of the Earth environment. We agree with other delegations here as to the importance of considering the problem of space debris, which is a potential threat for both the space and the land environments.

We are of the view that, taking advantage of the holding of the International Space Year, the idea should be promoted of making it easier for the developing countries to acquire the data needed for studying and protecting their environments; this should be done by offering them preferential terms, and they should also be provided with facilities for training the experts needed before these techniques can be used.

Our delegation fully supports the opinion voiced by the majority of countries that the international community has the right and the duty to participate in elaborating the rules and regulations to govern cooperation in the peaceful use of space in the best interests of all States.

The legal norms and other understandings and forms of cooperation must ensure that the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States are applied, and must also ensure each people's right to free and independent development.

In the light of these concepts, we have been attentively following the progress made in the elaboration of the set of principles on the use of nuclear power sources in space. Not only are we a developing country, but we also have a very particular geographical location: hence, Cuba is very concerned indeed about the consequences of the uncontrolled re-entry of objects with nuclear power sources on board, and also by failures which may occur during launching or in the first stages of flight.

(Mr. Perez Cruz, Cuba)

We consider that the problem of the delimitation and definition of outer space must be solved in the immediate future, as the deadlock that has persisted in this regard for a number of years now within the Committee is keeping us from determining the scope of accords having to do with outer space.

Cuba considers that actions that, by using sophisticated technologies, including space technologies, do not contribute to establishing or strengthening friendly relations between peoples, which do not foster mutual understanding or which violate the sovereignty of States and breach international agreements are unacceptable barriers to international cooperation and a serious threat to peace in those regions where situations of that kind obtain.

The delegation of Cuba wishes to reaffirm the need for a legal regime for the geostationary orbit to be established, in keeping with existing space law; that legal regime should, considering that the geostationary orbit is a limited natural resource, guarantee that all States can use it in a rational and equitable manner, taking into account the needs of the developing countries in such a way that they can enjoy their right to use the orbit when they have the right material conditions to enable them to do so.

Moreover, our delegation denounces the use of the geostationary orbit by the Government of the United States as part of its ostentatious display of high technology, which includes geostationary satellites that are used to support transmissions from a captive balloon in order to take over one of the TV channels within our national radio space.

(Mr. Perez Cruz, Cuba)

The fact is that my country the victim of an illegal, constant, massive invasion of its radio space, through dozens of radio and television transmissions that every day beam down hundreds of hours of subversive propaganda and interfere with the normal operation of local transmissions, waging vicious propaganda campaigns against Cuba.

These activities have been denounced by many Governments; the International Frequency Registration Board, a permanent body of the International Telecommunication Union, has declared them as a violation of the regulations governing radio communications. What is unacceptable is that they violate our national sovereignty through the use of artificial satellites for aggressive purposes, which is condemned by numerous international treaties; this can have consequences for regional peace and security.

As we have noted, it is incredible that space activities should continue to include the use of outer space for warlike purposes, to maintain military supremacy, siphoning off millions upon millions of dollars that could be used for improving the economic and social life of so-called third-world countries, where hunger and unequal development are on the rise, keeping their peoples plunged in the most wretched poverty.

That runs counter to the efforts we must make to seek financial support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) regarding international cooperation in response to the just demands that have been repeatedly voiced in this forum for years.

(Mr. Perez Cruz, Cuba)

In conclusion, I wish to state that Cuba is ready to establish cooperative relationships with all countries for the study of outer space and its peaceful uses.

Mr. HIDAYAT (Indonesia): It is with great pleasure, Sir, that I see you chairing the thirty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are confident that, with your wisdom and diplomatic skill, you will guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion.

We would also like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Carver of Australia and Mr. Mikulka of Czechoslovakia, Chairmen, respectively, of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, for their tireless leadership during the meetings of their Subcommittees.

The year 1991 was an important one in world history. Political events have changed the global strategic environment and the geopolitical map, raising hopes for brighter prospects for lasting peace for all. We have, however, observed some growing problems. On the positive side are the rapid growth of science and technology and the rise in human expectations. These will naturally demand more from us all. On the less positive side, there are problems we cannot ignore: the population explosion, with its associated problems, in particular poverty; the rapid degradation of our fragile ecosystem; and dwindling energy resources. In that connection, appropriate measures are needed to overcome these problems.

(Mr. Hidayat, Indonesia)

The world is now facing a new reality in that there is an increasing shift in attitudes towards the role of science and technology in the political life of nations, social institutions, norms and values. We observe these interdependent processes, which are characterized by synergism and dynamics and are encouraged by States and multinational corporations. Two main factors promote this development: first, the necessity and the will to enhance international competition in world markets and, secondly, the intention to maintain a high level of military technology.

"Mission to Planet Earth" still encapsulates the basic philosophy of the Indonesian space programme, with the objective of supporting the nation's development in the cultural, political and economic spheres. The components of our space programme include the application of remote sensing methods and techniques to cataloguing our natural resources, taking into consideration the ecological balance, and to the development process and the search for the causes of global climatological changes, by increasing in situ measurements.

We appreciate the fact that the mission to the universe is essential to the quest for learning the scientific truth and knowing the position of the Earth and mankind. It is our opinion that the need to address the present problems of the fragile balance between progress and development and of the preservation of the ecology should be foremost in our minds. We observe the need for development. At the same time, we have to endure the influence of human intervention in our lives: the warming of the atmosphere, the raising of the level of the sea, acid rain, global climatological change, the increasing number of endangered species, the pollution of lands, waters and

(Mr. Hidayat, Indonesia)

seas, the poisoning of soils, desertification, the disturbance of tropical flora, the accumulation of industrial wastes and many other problems. Though mankind's material wealth has increased, the problems concerning the eco-balance have grown in number and seriousness.

Space science and technology and their applications for solving Earth-bound problems have brought mankind to understand the rapid changes on the international scene. In this regard, developing countries can derive benefits for their own national development programmes. We find that there is an increase in space activities in developed countries, and that the majority of developing nations continue to find themselves in a disadvantageous position, unable fully to utilize the available knowledge, technological innovations and information infrastructures.

Indonesia, as a developing countries with its own modest space programme, is firmly committed to promoting space technology and applications to advance its national development. We have now embarked on expanding space research and development by establishing a research infrastructure including such areas as remote sensing, meteorology and environment management.

It is our sincere hope that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will now proceed in a more concerted and coordinated way to address these and other world problems through the application of space activities. In that regard, we have to devise practial programmes by applying space science and technology for the benefit of mankind, taking into particular consideration the plight of the developing countries. As a large country in terms of population and territorial dimensions, we realize the urgent need to

(Mr. Hidayat, Indonesia)

be self-sufficient. Therefore, Indonesia is endeavouring to provide itself with the capacity to utilize space technology for its own sustainable development.

As regards the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, my delegation believes that the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) and the United Nations Programme on Space Applications must be given urgent consideration. In the light of the rapid commercialization and industrialization of outer space, the developing countries, lacking essential infrastructures, will be unable to grasp the fruits of space science and technology for their economic development. In expressing support for the recommendations of the Working Group, we are concerned that many of the long-term training programmes and workshops are perennially under-funded. Thus, it is essential for developing countries to acquire the expertise necessary to define subsystems and components of the activities most compatible with their respective national programmes.

(Mr. Hidayat, Indonesia)

My delegation is pleased to inform the Committee that my Government hopes to establish a national centre for space science and technology education, which could be developed into a regional centre for Asia and the Pacific. I should like to stress that Indonesia would be ideal for an active meteorological laboratory. It is pertinent to note that Indonesia has made available the new remote-sensing facility in Parepare, in the eastern part of the country, to be utilized by the whole archipelago as well as the international scientific community. We are also pleased to report that, together with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), we have just commissioned a new wind profiling radar at Biak in the easternmost part of Indonesia. The facility will enable scientists and others to understand the El Niño phenomena better. A new middle atmospheric radar is also envisaged to be operated on the island of Sumatra, together with our colleagues from Japan. The facility will give the opportunity to make a study of atmospheric phenomena in real time up to about 1,000 km.

Furthermore, within the framework of ISY 1992 the Indonesian Government is ready to host the United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development, for the benefit of the Asian Pacific countries. It is to be held in Jakarta during 1993. My delegation is pleased to report that a symposium on space activities was held in February this year and that a regional space telecommunications symposium will be organized on 22 July this year.

As to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, Indonesia attaches particular importance to the finalization of the draft principles. In this connection, we should like to emphasize safety provisions to minimize the inherent dangers and hazards posed by the use of nuclear power sources and

(Mr. Hidayat, Indonesia)

space debris. We therefore believe that the Working Group should continue its discussion at the next session.

Turning now to the report of the Legal Subcommittee, my delegation would like to make a few comments concerning the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit (GSO). The geostationary orbit is a limited natural resource. It is therefore essential that our Committee remain committed to promoting the equitable economic and efficient utilization of the GSO. For that reason, Indonesia, as an equatorial country, firmly believes that the deliberations on this problem should be continued in the Committee, not only because the matter touches on technical issues but also because it is closely related to legal and political concerns.

Finally, my delegation would urge the Committee to consolidate its efforts in assuring the Organization's leadership in furtherance of international cooperation and preserving outer space to be the heritage of mankind.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. ZUGIC (Yugoslavia): In his statement today the representative of the United States referred in his statement today to the question of the continuity of the international personality of Yugoslavia. In that regard, I should like for the record to draw attention to the statement made by my delegation yesterday. I wish to reiterate once again that we are convinced that this is not the appropriate place or time to raise this question.

Mr. BRAIBANTI (United States of America): I regret that my delegation must exercise its right of reply to respond to what we consider to be baseless charges by the delegation of Cuba. We reject those charges

(Mr. Braibanti, United States)

levelled against the United States and want to make it clear for the record that the United States conducts all its space activities in full compliance with international law, with the United Nations Charter and, more specifically, with the International Telecommunication Union Convention. We dismiss the unwarranted attacks by the delegation of Cuba and consider that its intervention constitutes an abuse of its observer status in this body. We condemn those efforts to disrupt the Committee's work by raising such extraneous issues.

Mr. PEREZ CRUZ (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): I am aware of the cutting edge of the veracity of our accusation. We believe that one speaks in order to tell the truth, and not hide it. I am convinced that most of my colleagues are quite clear as to our delegation's position. Moreover, everybody knows that the International Telecommunication Union passed judgement in our favour. We feel that it is inappropriate to abuse representatives' patience by returning to something that needs no further proof.

The CHAIRMAN: We have now concluded our consideration of agenda item 5, "General exchange of views".

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.